

of this subpart. Field drilling rules may be amended or cancelled for cause at any time upon the initiative of the District Supervisor or upon the approval of a request by a lessee.

§250.63 Supervision, surveillance, and training.

(a) The lessee shall provide onsite supervision of drilling operations on a 24-hour per day basis.

(b) From the time drilling operations are initiated and until the well is completed or abandoned, a member of the drilling crew or the toolpusher shall maintain rig-floor surveillance continuously, unless the well is secured with BOP's, bridge plugs, packers, or cement plugs.

(c) Lessee and drilling contractor personnel shall be trained and qualified in accordance with the provisions of Subpart O of this part and MMS Training Standard MMS-OCS-T 1, Training and Qualifications of Personnel in Well-Control Equipment and Techniques for Drilling Offshore Locations (Second Edition). Records of specific training which lessee and drilling contractor personnel have successfully completed, the dates of completion, and the names and dates of the courses shall be maintained at the drill site.

§250.64 Applications for permit to drill.

(a) Prior to commencing the drilling of a well under an approved Exploration Plan, Development and Production Plan, or Development Operations Coordination Document, the lessee shall file a Form MMS-123, APD, with the District Supervisor for approval. Prior to commencing operations, written approval from the District Supervisor must be received by the lessee unless oral approval has been given pursuant to §250.6(a).

(b) The APD's for wells to be drilled from mobile drilling units shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the maximum environmental and operational conditions the rig is designed to withstand.

(2) Applicable current documentation of operational limitations imposed by the American Bureau of Shipping classification or other appropriate classification society and either a U.S. Coast

Guard Certificate of Inspection or a U.S. Coast Guard Letter of Compliance.

(3) For frontier areas, the design and operating limitations beyond which suspension, curtailment, or modification of drilling or rig operations are required (e.g., vessel motion, offset, riser angle, anchor tensions, wind speed, wave height, currents, icing or ice-loading, settling, tilt or lateral movement, resupply capability) and the contingency plans which identify actions to be taken prior to exceeding the design or operating limitations of the rig.

(4) A program which provides for safety in drilling operations where a floating or semisubmersible type of drilling vessel is used and formation competency at the structural and/or conductor casing setting depth(s) is (are) not adequate to permit circulation of drilling fluids to the vessel while drilling the conductor and/or surface hole. This program shall include all known pertinent information including seismic and geologic data, water depth, drilling-fluid hydrostatic pressure, a schematic diagram indicating the equipment to be installed from the rotary table to the proposed conductor and/or surface casing seat(s), and the contingency plan for moving off location.

(c) The APD's shall include rated capacities of the proposed drilling unit and of major drilling equipment.

(d) In those areas which are subject to subfreezing conditions, the lessee shall furnish evidence that the drilling equipment, BOP system and components, drilling safety systems, diverter systems, and other associated equipment and materials are suitable for drilling operations under subfreezing conditions.

(e) After a drilling unit has been approved for use in an MMS District, the information listed in paragraphs (b) (1), (2), and (3), (c), and (d) of this section need not be resubmitted unless required by the District Supervisor or there are changes in equipment that affect the rated capacity of the unit.

(f) An APD shall include the following in addition to a fully completed Form MMS-123:

(1) A plat, drawn to a scale of 2,000 feet to the inch, showing the surface and subsurface location of the well to

be drilled and of all the wells previously drilled in the vicinity from which information is available. Locations shall be indicated in feet from the block line.

(2) The design criteria considered for the well and for well control, including the following:

- (i) Pore pressures.
- (ii) Formation fracture gradients.
- (iii) Potential lost circulation zones.
- (iv) Mud weights.
- (v) Casing setting depths.
- (vi) Anticipated surface pressures (which for purposes of this section are defined as the pressure which can reasonably be expected to be exerted upon a casing string and its related wellhead equipment). In the calculation of an anticipated surface pressure, the lessee shall take into account the drilling, completion, and producing conditions. The lessee shall consider mud densities to be used below various casing strings, fracture gradients of the exposed formations, casing setting depths, total well depth, formation fluid type, and other pertinent conditions. Considerations for calculating anticipated surface pressure may vary for each segment of the well. The lessee shall include as a part of the statement of anticipated surface pressures the calculations used to determine these pressures during the drilling phase and the completion phase, including the anticipated surface pressure used for production string design.
- (vii) If a shallow hazards site survey is conducted, the lessee shall submit with or prior to the submittal of the APD, two copies of a summary report describing the geological and manmade conditions present. The lessee shall also submit two copies of the site maps and data records identified in the survey strategy.
- (viii) Permafrost zones, if applicable.

(3) A BOP equipment program including the following:

- (i) The pressure rating of BOP equipment.
- (ii) A well-control procedure for use of the annular preventer for those wells where the anticipated surface pressure exceeds the rated working pressure of the annular preventer.

(iii) A description of subsea BOP accumulator system or other type of closing system proposed for use.

(iv) A schematic drawing of the diverter system to be used (plan and elevation views) showing spool outlet internal diameter(s); diverter-line lengths and diameters, burst strengths, and radius of curvature at each turn; valve type, size, working pressure rating, and location; the control instrumentation logic; and the operating procedure to be used by lessee or contractor personnel.

(v) A schematic drawing of the BOP stack showing the inside diameter of the BOP stack, and the number of annular, pipe ram, variable-bore pipe ram, blind ram, and blind-shear ram preventers.

(4) A casing program including the following:

- (i) Casing size, weight, grade, type of connection, and setting depth;
- (ii) Casing design safety factors for tension, collapse, and burst with the assumptions made to arrive at these values; and
- (iii) In areas containing permafrost, casing programs that incorporate setting depths for conductor and surface casing based on the anticipated depth of the permafrost at the proposed well location and which utilize the current state-of-the-art methods to safely drill and set casing. The casing program shall provide protection from thaw subsidence and freezback effect, proper anchorage, and well control.

(5) The drilling prognosis including the following:

- (i) Projected plans for coring at specified depths;
- (ii) Projected plans for logging;
- (iii) Estimated depths to the top of significant marker formations; and
- (iv) Estimated depths at which encounters with significant porous and permeable zones containing fresh water, oil, gas, or abnormally pressured water are expected.

(6) A cementing program including type and amount of cement in cubic feet to be used for each casing string.

(7) A mud program including the minimum quantities of mud and mud materials, including weight materials, to be kept at the site.

(8) A directional survey program for directionally drilled wells.

(9) A plot of the estimated pore pressures and formation fracture gradients and the proposed mud weights and casing setting depths on the same sheet.

(10) A H₂S Contingency Plan, if applicable, and not submitted previously.

(11) Such other information as may be required by the District Supervisor.

(g) Public information copies of the APD shall be submitted in accordance with § 250.17 of this part.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 49928, Sept. 24, 1993]

§ 250.65 Sundry notices and reports on wells.

(a) Notices of the lessee's intention to change plans, make changes in major drilling equipment, deepen or plug back a well, or engage in similar activities and subsequent reports pertaining to such operations shall be submitted to the District Supervisor on Form MMS-124, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells. Prior to commencing operations, written approval must be received from the District Supervisor unless oral approval is obtained.

(b) The Form MMS-124 submitted shall contain a detailed statement of the proposed work that will materially change from the approved work described in the APD. Information submitted shall include the present status of the well, including the production string or last string of casing, the well depth, the present production zones and productive capability, and all other information specified on Form MMS-124. Within 30 days after completion of the work, a subsequent detailed report of all the work done and the results obtained shall be submitted.

(c) A Form MMS-124 with a plat, certified by a registered land surveyor, shall be filed as soon as the well's final surveyed surface location, water depth, and the rotary kelly bushing elevation have been determined.

(d) Public information copies of Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells shall be submitted in accordance with § 250.17 of this part.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 49928, Sept. 24, 1993]

§ 250.66 Well records.

(a) Complete and accurate records for each well and of all well operations shall be retained for a period of 2 years at the lessee's field office nearest the OCS facility or at another location conveniently available to the District Supervisor. The records shall contain a description of any significant malfunction or problem; all the formations penetrated; the content and character of oil, gas, and other mineral deposits and water in each formation; the kind, weight, size, grade, and setting depth of casing; all well logs and surveys run in the wellbore; and all other information required by the District Supervisor in the interests of resource evaluation, waste prevention, conservation of natural resources, protection of correlative rights, safety, and environment.

(b) When drilling operations are suspended, or temporarily prohibited under the provisions of § 250.10 of this part, the lessee shall, within 30 days after termination of the suspension or temporary prohibition or within 30 days after the completion of any activities related to the suspension or prohibition, transmit to the District Supervisor duplicate copies of the records of all activities related to and conducted during the suspension or temporary prohibition on, or attached to, Form MMS-125, Well Summary Report, or Form MMS-124, as appropriate.

(c) Upon request by the Regional or District Supervisor, the lessee shall furnish the following:

(1) Copies of the records of any of the well operations specified in paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) Paleontological reports identifying microscopic fossils by depth and/or washed samples of drill cuttings normally maintained by the lessee for paleontological determinations;

(3) Copies of the daily driller's report at a frequency as determined by the District Supervisor. Items to be reported include spud dates, casing setting depths, cement quantities, casing characteristics, pressure integrity tests, mud weights, kicks, lost returns, and any unusual activities; and